energy based on one or more rules regarding a state of charge or other energy parameters of either device.

[0057] At **704**, energy transfer device **100** detects a first connection of a first portable device. At **706**, energy transfer device **100** detects a second connection of a second portable device. At **708**, energy transfer device transfers energy between the first and second portable devices based at least on the first energy transfer parameter.

[0058] FIG. **8** illustrates energy transfer device **800** according to another embodiment. Energy transfer device **800** is operatively coupled to first portable device **114** and second portable device **116** to wirelessly transfer energy therebetween. Energy transfer device **800** operates similarly to energy transfer device **100** of FIG. **1**, except energy transfer device **800** transfers energy via wireless signals whereas energy transfer device **100** of FIG. **1** transfers energy via cable **102**. Energy transfer device **800** can use any of various wireless charging technologies, such as induction-based wireless charging, resonance-based wireless charging, radio-based wireless charging, and/or optically-based wireless charging, among others. In one embodiment, energy transfer device **800** is incorporated into a table-top to facilitate energy transfer between devices placed thereon. Energy transfer device **800** also includes control unit **802** to control parameters associated with energy transferred from a host device (e.g., first portable device **114**) to a recipient device (e.g., second portable device **116**). Control unit **802** may include any of the features of control unit **108** discussed elsewhere herein.

[0059] FIG. **9** illustrates energy transfer device **900** according to another embodiment. Energy transfer device **900** is operatively coupled to second portable device **116** via cable **902**. Energy transfer device **900** operates similarly to energy transfer device **100** of FIG. **1**, except energy transfer device **900** transmits and/or receives energy from a single device, whereas energy transfer device **100** of FIG. **1** transfers energy between two devices. Energy transfer device **900** includes control unit **904** to control parameters associated with energy transferred between energy transfer device **900** and second portable device **116**. Control unit **904** includes internal battery **906**, which may be larger than internal battery **120** of second portable device **116**. For example, in one embodiment, internal battery **906** is about 3,000-30,000 mAh, whereas internal battery **120** of second portable device **116** is about 1,400-2,400 mAh. In an embodiment, internal battery **906** can be charged from an AC (alternating current) power source (e.g., a wall outlet) via cable **902** and an AC adapter (not shown). Control unit **902** may include any of the features of control unit **108** discussed elsewhere herein.

[0060] FIG. **10** is a flow diagram of a method **1000** of transferring energy from an energy transfer device, according to one embodiment. For illustrative purposes, FIG. **10** will be described in connection with energy transfer device **100** of FIGS. **1** and **2**. However, the method **1000** can be performed by other devices, according to other embodiments.

[0061] At **1002**, a connection of energy transfer device **100** to first portable device **114** is detected. For example, according to one embodiment, first portable device **114** detects first connector **104** being connected to a port of first portable device **114**.

[0062] At **1004**, a request for energy is received at first portable device **114** from energy transfer device **100**. Energy transfer device **100** is also connected to second portable device **116**, for example, via second connector **106**. In one embodiment, second portable device **116** may transmit a request for energy to energy transfer device **100** and, based on the request from second portable device **116**, energy transfer device **100** may transmit a corresponding request for energy to first portable device **114**. For example, second portable device **116** may be running low on energy, and may request that first portable device **114** transfers some of its energy to second portable device **116**, via energy transfer device **100**.

[0063] At least one of first and second portable devices **114**, **116** may provide certain information to energy transfer device **100** upon connection thereto, or in response to a query. For example, in one embodiment at least one of first and second energy transfer devices **114**, **116** may provide at least one of an identifier, an energy parameter, an energy transfer parameter, or other information to energy transfer device **100**. In addition, upon detecting the other of first and second portable devices **114**, **116**, energy transfer device **100** may transmit the information received to the respective device.

[0064] At **1006**, it is determined whether to authorize the request. In some embodiments, the determination **1006** is made by energy transfer device **100**, while in other embodiments, the determination **1006** is made by first portable device **114**. The determination may be made based upon various factors. For example, the determination may be made based on the information (e.g., identifier, energy parameter, energy transfer parameter, etc.) mentioned above, upon a payment associated with the energy transfer, or upon other things.

[0065] At **1008**, energy is transmitted from first portable device **114** to energy transfer device **100** if determination **1006** results in the request being approved. For example, in one embodiment, energy is further transmitted to second portable device **116** from energy transfer device **100**. In another embodiment, at least a portion of the energy is stored by energy transfer device **100**. In one embodiment, energy transfer is stopped when energy transfer is complete. For example, according to various embodiments, energy transfer may be considered complete when the requested amount of energy is transferred to second portable device **116** from first portable device **114**, when first portable device **114** reaches a predetermined minimum state of charge, when second portable device **116** reaches a predetermined maximum state of charge, when a time limit is reached, when first portable device **114** no longer has energy to transfer, and/or if one of first and second portable devices **114**, **116** is disconnected from energy transfer device **100**, among other events. In some embodiments, the amount of energy transferred from first portable device **114** to energy transfer device **100** is less than the amount requested at **1004**. For example, due to one of the reasons mentioned above, energy transfer may be stopped prior to the requested amount of energy being transmitted. In some embodiments, portable device **116** may provide or authorize a payment associated with the energy transfer from portable device **114**. Payment may be made electronically, with the amount being debited from an account controlled by second portable device **116** or an owner or agent thereof. The account may reside on second portable device **116**, on energy transfer device **100**, or an external site. The payment amount may be credited to an account controlled by first portable device **114** or an owner